

MERELY A LEGISLATIVE SUGGESTION

The house bill, limiting work of laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or sub-contractors on governmental work to 8 hours, and providing for a fine for non-compliance with the law, was put over unanimously and without much debate.

Representative Berger declared the bill was not drawn in plain English. He suggested that a bricklayer be permitted to draft an eight-hour law, of not more than ten lines, with a newspaper man to examine and approve it, that its meaning may be intelligible.

Berger's suggestion might apply to all legislation, and the country as a whole would gain by the operation.

That the advertising bug is just as bad as the hook worm was brought out in the discussion of the Lindbergh resolution asking for an investigation of the money trust.

In the senate, Works of California made a remarkable speech in which he attacked America's richest men who make their philanthropies dependent on conditions that their names be heralded broadcast throughout the land as donors to the people. This method of giving away small portions of their wealth, asserted Mr. Works, is just as selfish as the method of accumulating it.

Apparently Works is not a believer in the motto, "What is there in it for me?" that governs modern charity, and joins with the people in their cry: Cut out

your charity and just give us plain justice and we'll be able to take care of ourselves.

In fact, the whole mess of legislation annually introduced for political reasons, is either put to sleep or so trimmed as to rob it of its power for good; and if the shears and razors of private interests fail, there is always some court to declare an undesirable piece of legislative juggling unconstitutional.

Why wouldn't it be a good thing to cut out both houses, let the people of each state annually select a number of delegates, based on the state's population, to attend an annual convention at Washington, D. C., and then have whatever is favorably considered by this convention, before it can be made effective or binding, submitted to a national referendum vote of the people and declared adopted only on a two-third vote in its favor?

Of course this is radical, but what if it is, so long as it means progress in the right direction and insures a government of the people by the people and for the people?

A Certain Satisfaction.

"How did you feel after you lost 10 million dollars in New York's financial circles?"

"Well," replied the philosophical Westerner, "I didn't have nearly as many headaches as I'd have developed trying to have a good time with the money on Broadway."—Washington Star.